

October 1, 2018

A 'Devine' day for RVH

Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre's (RVH) child and youth mental health program got a recent boost of support from the Devine Ride, a scenic fundraising motorcycle rally through Simcoe Muskoka.

More than 250 motorcycle enthusiasts participated in the second annual Devine Ride to raise funds for RVH's Simcoe Muskoka Child and Youth Mental Health Program. The ride was organized by Rock 95 and KOOL FM radio show announcer Brenda Devine as part of the radio stations Young Minds Matter fundraising campaign. This year \$8,028 was raised at the event through registrations, draws and individual donations from the participants.

"Our region badly needed this program for youth struggling with mental health which is why I am so proud to contribute to this cause," says Devine. "I am grateful to the radio stations, the record number of participants, the donors and the volunteers who united with me to ensure the event was a fantastic ride for a very worthwhile cause. I have had so many people, including those in the motorcycle community, tell me they also strongly believe in the importance of this program. A few people have shared that their children have used the services provided in the program and the fact they didn't have to travel to Toronto for care made it so much easier during an already difficult time."

The RVH Simcoe Muskoka Child and Youth Mental Health program opened in late 2017. It features an eight-bed inpatient unit where approximately 300 young people will be cared for each year. One in five young people suffer from mental illness but until the program opened, North Simcoe Muskoka was the only region in Ontario without a hospital-based child and youth mental health program. Youth who are experiencing acute mental health issues now have access to specialized inpatient services for stabilization and treatment at RVH. Most recently, RVH also opened a Day Program offering academic and mental health services for high school students unable to attend regular classes due to a diagnosis of anxiety or depression.

In photo: Heather Cochrane (right), RVH Manager of Adult Crisis Services and the Simcoe Muskoka Regional Child and Youth Mental Health Program was thrilled to accept this donation from Brenda Devine (left).

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For more information:

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About RVH:

RVH is a regional health centre in Barrie, Ontario, located 80 kilometres north of Toronto. As the largest hospital in the region of Simcoe Muskoka, RVH's team of over 430 physicians, 2,500 employees and 750 volunteers provides exceptional care and specialty services to almost half a million residents, including regional services such as: advanced cardiac, cancer, child & youth mental health, renal, stroke, orthopaedics, intensive care and interventional radiology. RVH is focused on delivering high-quality, safe care that puts patients and their families first. For more information visit www.rvh.on.ca